

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 26-28, and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e). Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16-17, 20, 22, 24-25, 29, and 31-32 were objected to. Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 8, 15, and 23 and has cancelled Claims 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, and 24-25.

Applicant has amended Claims 12, 19, and 27 to correct a typographical error.

Applicant has placed the claims in condition for allowance by incorporating Claim 3 into Claim 1, Claim 10 into Claim 8, Claim 16 into Claim 15, and Claim 24 into Claim 23.


Claims 4-7, 11-14, 18-22, and 26-32 being dependent upon Claims 1, 8, 15, 23, respectively should be allowable for at least the same reasons their independent claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

All claims should now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, the applicants' attorney can be reached at Tel: 408-879-6149 (Pacific Standard Time).

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on February 25, 2004.

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